

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 64, 86, 88-90, 101, 108-113, 121-124, 126-127, 137-140 and 144-148 are currently pending in the present application.

Double Patenting Rejections

U.S. Patent No. 6,020,208

The Examiner has rejected claims 64, 86, 88-90, 101, 108-113, 121-124, 126-127, 137-140 and 144-148 of the present invention over claims 53-54 of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,208. This rejection is rendered moot by the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

U.S. Patent No. 6,027,942

The Examiner has rejected claims 64, 86, 88-90, 101, 108-113, 121-124, 126-127, 137-140 and 144-148 of the present invention over claims 32 and 53-54 of U.S. Patent No. 6,027,942. This rejection is rendered moot by the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

U.S. Patent No. 6,124,137

The Examiner has rejected claims 64, 86, 88-90, 101, 108-113, 121-124, 126-127, 137-140 and 144-148 of the present invention over claims 13-14, 17, 44-45 and 48 of U.S. Patent No. 6,124,137. This rejection is rendered moot by the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

U.S. Application No. 09/848,512

The Examiner has rejected claims 64, 86, 88-90, 101, 108-113, 121-124, 126-127, 137-140 and 144-148 of the present invention over claims 99 and 124 of Application No. 09/848,512. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot by the fact that Application No. 09/848,512 is an abandoned patent application.

U.S. Application No. 10/887,102

The Examiner has rejected claims 64, 86, 88-90, 101, 108-113, 121-124, 126-127, 137-140 and 144-148 of the present invention over claims 84-85 of copending Application No. 10/887,102. This rejection is rendered moot by the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

U.S. Application No. 10/882,608

The Examiner has rejected claims 64, 86, 88-90, 101, 108-113, 121-124, 126-127, 137-140 and 144-148 of the present invention over claims 78-80, 93-95 and 113-115 of copending Application No. 10/882,608. This rejection is rendered moot by the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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